

The Page-out

Glacier County EMS Newsletter

November, 2006



Region 2A Conference

The region 2A EMS conference is being hosted by Glacier County EMS November 7th and 8th. The conference will present many great opportunities for continuing education and keeping up to date on EMS in Montana. We would love a strong showing of GCEMS personnel, and look forward to the opportunity to show other EMS agencies what we are about. Here is the schedule for the conference. . .

Record Month for Website

October was a record month for our department website. This may be attributed to regular updates on news items, photos, and more added features. The areas most viewed on the website are listed below, with the most viewed being #1.

1. News
2. Staff roster and photos
3. Extrication training photos
4. Action photos
5. Special operations division information

The statistics for October were very impressive. We beat the old record for website visits of 709 set in July, 2006 by 92 visits.

801 visits (new record)
507 1st time visitors (new record)
22,160 web hits by search engines

We had online visitors from all over the world, including Slovenia, Czech Republic, Great Britain, Saudi Arabia, China, Spain, Italy, France, India, Costa Rica, Germany, Argentina, Switzerland and Canada.

New Parkas Issued

Personnel who had not previously been issued a department winter coat have been issued a new 5.11 parka. The parkas are ANSI Class 3 certified due to their hi-visibility color and ample reflective striping. The coats were issued with a fleece liner to be worn underneath. The liners do not attach to the parka shell, so they will have to be worn loosely underneath. Refer to the labels inside for care instructions.

SATURDAY

8:00-8:30 Registration
8:30-9:45 "Non-Violent Interventions in Crisis Situations"
9:45-10:00 Break
10:00-12:00 "Do's and Don't of Mercy Flight"
12:00-1:00 Catered lunch, discussion of current events in EMS
1:00-2:30 Traumatic brain injury
2:30-2:45 Break
2:45-5:00 Traumatic brain injury (continued)
5:00-7:00 Supper on your own
7:00-9:00 Ice rescue

SUNDAY

8:30-9:00 Registration / sign-in
9:00-12:00 "Drug Endangered Children"
12:00-1:00 Catered lunch, drug endangered children continued
1:00-2:30 Comfort One
2:30-2:45 Break
2:45-3:00 Wrap up / evaluations / dismissal

15 continuing education credits will be issued, 9 for Saturday and 6 for Sunday.

The conference will be held at the Cut Bank Courthouse Annex building, room A. 1210 E. Main St., Cut Bank. Hope to see you there!

EMS 27 Returns to Duty

Paramedic Kyle Starr returned to duty November 1st after being off on maternity leave since early October. Mom and baby are doing great, and Kyle wishes to thank everyone who helped fill his shifts so that he could be off with his family. Kolton Ian Starr (Kole) was born October 9, 2006 at Pondera Medical Center in Conrad.

Safety Corner

The helipad has recently been completed across from NRMCC. Glass beads were added to the final finish to create a reflective surface that is more visible to incoming rotor-wings. Many loose beads are still present on the pad, and create an airborne hazard when exposed to the rotor wash of a helicopter. To prevent eye injuries, stay inside the rigs with windows up during take-offs and landings, or wear eye protection if you must be out of the rig.

Winter weather is upon us, which can mean some difficult and dangerous roads to travel. Though we may not like driving slow to an emergency call, we are of no help to the patient if we do not get there safely, or do not get them to a hospital safely. Drive for the conditions, whether a 911 call or a transfer. It may make for a long Kalispell trip when the snow is flying, but making it there and back safely is priority 1. If your transfer will be prolonged due to road conditions, let dispatch know when you phone in on your way back so that they know. If during the day, you might also call the station to inform the chief or duty medic so they know about when to expect your return.

Living here in Montana, everyone has a pretty good idea how to drive safely on hazardous roads, but here are some emergency vehicle operations tips for everyone.

WINTER DRIVING TIPS

1. Keep your eyes moving, scan the road and the roadsides.
2. Allow greater distance for stopping
3. Do not tailgate, leave plenty of room between the rig and other vehicles.
4. Monitor road conditions well during your trip. The roads may not have been icy when you left, but may be further down the road.

New Protocols

Some of the endorsements will be enhancing the capabilities of our EMT's. Protocols are being developed to allow BLS providers to administer Epi pens and oral Benadryl. Epi pens have been ordered, and will be added to our inventory and put into service as soon as personnel are trained and protocols are signed and in place. When developed, a copy of the protocols will be put in everyone's mailbox.

You might work in EMS if. . . .

- Sleep deprivation is your favorite hallucinogen.
- Your shoes have ever been seized and quarantined by the CDC or EPA.
- You believe 10% of what you are told and 90% of what you see.
- You can finish a meal in under 1 minute.

Laptop Donated

Glacier Electric Cooperative has donated a Panasonic Toughbook PC to GCEMS. The laptop will be a welcome addition to our inventory. GEC is very good about giving back to the community, and we greatly appreciate their generosity.

Special Operations Update

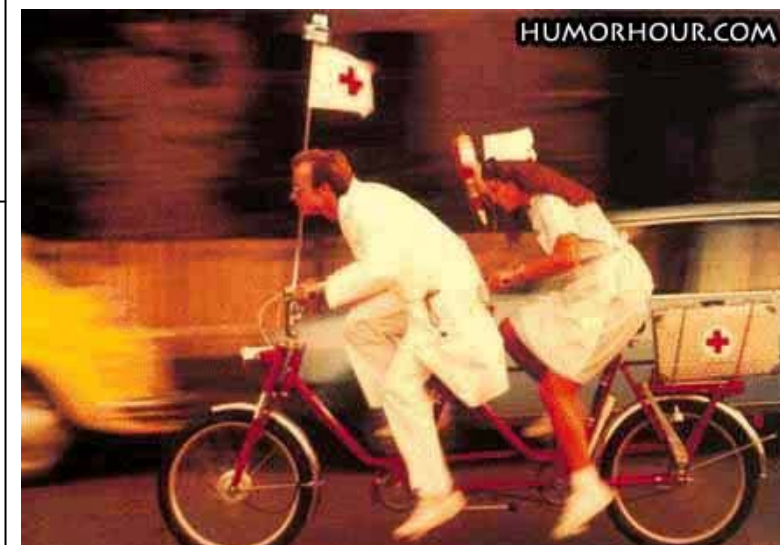
The special operations pickup has received new tires in preparation for the winter. GCEMS has also purchased two Conterra radio chest harnesses for special operations use. They are being kept in the backseat of the pickup. The wilderness / special ops bag is kept in the medic office.

Bike 1 sustained some damage to it's strobe lights due to a tip-over, and is awaiting parts to fix it.

Humor

Ambulance Etiquette

1. Never call an ambulance for a condition you've had for over a week.
2. Never give the doctor a different history than you gave the ambulance crew, it makes them look bad.
3. Do not ask "are we there yet?" until you have gone at least ten miles.



"The first EMS Bike Medic Unit"